

WVCW's funding still up in the air

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At the Student Government Association meeting Monday, the senate tabled the topic of whether or not to return \$30,000 to VCU's radio station.

Last week the SGA voted to withdraw its offer of support, citing WVCW's failure to use the money as the reason. Jay Smack, general manager for WVCW, requested Monday that the SGA reconsider its decision.

"If students want an FM station, we need that money back," Smack said, explaining that WVCW did not use the money because of a communication problem.

The SGA allotted the money to WVCW last year to help the radio station in its efforts to acquire FM capability.

"Without the money the station is basically back to square one," Smack said, adding that the \$30,000 would at least help with the start up costs, which are estimated at \$250,000.

Stressing the appeal an FM radio station would have for prospective students, Smack said WVCW is also a good training ground for broadcast majors.

"We want to help VCU by presenting a good professional image," Smack said. Because the radio station is not an FM station, he said, it does not get taken seriously.

Several senators voiced their concerns about the radio station's intentions, if the money is returned.

Sen. Catherine Pruden, chairwoman of the appropriations committee, questioned the accountability of WVCW. She suggested

that someone be appointed to make sure the radio station does use the money this time.

Sen. Cathaleen Bryant, vice chairwoman of the appointments committee, said she would like to see some documentation on what WVCW has been doing since the money was allotted last April.

She also requested that WVCW bring a plan of action to the senate, so the new senate will know what the radio station intends to do with the \$30,000.

Sen. Adrienne Howard of the human relations committee said SGA should keep the money and allocate it to other groups. Other groups should not have to suffer again, she said, because the radio station wants another chance.

The senators finally agreed to have

Smack investigate the issue further and report back to the new senate with his findings.

In other business, the SGA approved a motion directing Chris Green, a student representative from VCU's Executive Budget Committee, to ask the committee to consider giving \$240,000, which has been set aside for athletic facility improvements, to parking.

Green urged the new and old senators to carefully examine the proposed allocations, because University Council will vote on the matter April 4.

At the end of the meeting, the newly elected senators took the oath of office. They will begin conducting regular business Monday, when the group will elect new officers.